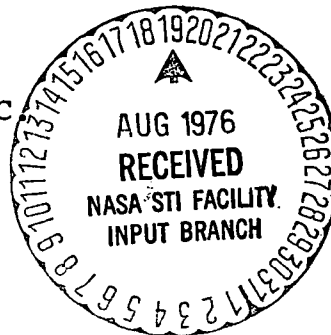


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NASA TO DEMONSTRATE NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Applications Technology Satellite 6 (ATS-6) completed its year-long role in India's Satellite Instructional Television Experiment Aug. 1. The spacecraft began a four-month journey back to an orbital location over the Western Hemisphere, where a number of new and continuing experiments in the use of direct broadcasting for education and health care are planned.

While the satellite moves from its location over Lake Victoria in East Africa to its home over the Pacific Ocean west of South America, NASA is assisting the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) in a project to demonstrate direct broadcasting to public officials, scientists, educators, and other decision makers in more than two dozen developing countries.

(NASA-News-Release-76-140) NASA TO
DEMONSTRATE NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING
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AID is funding the demonstration known as AIDSAT (for AID Space Age Technology) as part of a broad new U.S. initiative described by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi, Kenya, in May.

The Secretary of State noted the vital role played by technology in improving the standard of living in developing countries, and expressed America's commitment to transfer a wide range of useful technologies as quickly and effectively as possible.

During the next several years, AID plans to increase assistance to developing countries in the application of such advanced technologies as satellite remote sensing, communications and aerial photographic imagery to problems of economic growth and human development.

The first set of demonstrations will be conducted for 11 developing countries and one international conference between Aug. 1 and 26, 1976.

ATS-6 is an extremely powerful communications satellite able to broadcast color television directly to any individual television receiver equipped with portable antenna and frequency converter. No Intelsat stations or conventional television transmitters are necessary to reach receivers which may be located several hundred miles apart. A simple, low-cost portable transmitter may be used to broadcast to other receivers via ATS-6.

One transmitter/receiver and two or three receive-only sets are being taken to each country for the demonstration.

Astronaut Owen Garriott will be the moderator of the first five programs.

After an initial greeting by President Ford, the demonstrations will feature three films created especially for this program. The uses of communications technology for national development is the first 28-minute film; the second 25-minute film shows space satellites (Landsats 1 and 2) used for environmental monitoring, mapping, soil surveys, agriculture and forest inventories and studies relating to natural resources. A third film, 17 minutes in length, discusses technologies useful for disaster prediction, assessment and relief.

Following the filmed portion, the host country will transmit a 30-minute presentation on the role of science and technology in their development. This live program will be originated from the transmit-receive terminal located in each nation's capital.

The third part of the demonstration will be a live two-way video discussion in which U.S. officials knowledgeable about space technology and U.S. assistance programs will speak from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center outside Washington, D.C. with representatives of the host country in their capital. The other television receivers in the host country will show both ends of the conversation. Officials in the developing country will be asking direct questions regarding all aspects of the demonstration, including U.S. assistance programs and the new space-age technologies.

Of the 12 programs planned, those to Thailand, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been broadcast. Others will be beamed to United Arab Emirates (Aug. 9); Oman (Aug. 10); Jordan (Aug. 16); Kenya (Aug. 17); Yemen (Aug. 18); the Conference on Applied Science and Technology in the Arab World, Rabat, Morocco (Aug. 23); Libya (Aug. 25); Sudan (Aug. 26); and Morocco (Aug. 26).

An additional 15 countries in Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean have been invited to participate in the second group of demonstrations that will begin in late September.



August 5, 1976